What's Happening

By Becky Moore
352-8590

Mrs. Ida Belle Campbell, Treasurer's office; Mrs. Nancy Reynolds, Commissioner's office; Mrs. Margaret O'Brien, Tax Practitioner, Mr. S. B. Waddell, VPI Cooperative Extension office; along with 215 other people, attended a meeting of the Small Business Tax Conference in Natural Bridge, Nov. 20-22. The people attending the conference were from the Valley of Virginia and extending down to the North Carolina border.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Gaines had visiting them this past week their daughter, Mrs. Barbara Roper, and two children, Jason, 3, and Libby, 2, from Grantsboro, N.C. Mildred tells me Barbara was a little confused about the way people "tease" her about the way she talks.

In North Carolina, the folks there thought she sounded different after living in Virginia and when she comes home people here want to hear her talk because she's now from North Carolina. I know "jest" what you are going through Barbara! Don't you pay "no never mind to those folks. Some of them "don't know which comes first, the chicken or the aig". I don't know what ails em." How come people from up Nawth say we tawk funny when they're the ones who tawk funny?" Ah'm plum wore out from trying to splain the difference.

* * *

ROBERT E. LEE - The finest gentleman who ever drew breath and the greatest military leader since Julius Caesar and Alexander the Great. "Robert E. Lee didn't surrender - Grant just stole his sword and Lee was too much of a gentleman to ask him to give it back."

* * *

MISTY ACRES - The home of Dr. W. P. Geisler was a delightful scene Saturday morning. When "Doc" led me into the dining room, his sister, Muriel Geisler, from Briarwood, Long Island, and a friend, from France, Genevieve Brimm, along with some other local friends, were all gathered around the dining table having breakfast. The table had a beautiful autumn centerpiece. You could tell at first glance, here were people truly celebrating what Thanksgiving is all about. They, along with so many others, had special reasons to be thankful.

Muriel, (Mim) as Doc addresses her, started to tell and show me pictures of her trip to Czechoslovakia. Muriel had traced their ROOTS.

It started back in 1976. Their mother had passed away that year and they were looking through some old boxes she had stored away. Their mother was from Hungary. She had left Czechoslovakia in 1908. Hungary had become Czechoslovkia after World War II. She had moved from here in 1920 and the last contact she had had with her family had been in the 20's. She spoke Hungarian, Czech and Slovac.

After finding an old post card and a letter written in German, they decided to start with the post card which was from her mother's hometown of Piestany (pronounced "peeschany").

"I had no idea what I'd find if I went o my mother's homeland. But I had to go, if only to walk the ground she had walked."

THE SEARCH BEGINS - In Piestany, Miss Giesler went first to the local City Hall to search for records of the family. None were to be found, but with the office that took an interest in what she was trying to accomplish . they advised her to see a woman in town whose name was similar to the one she was investigating.

"I knew we were related the moment I saw her," said Miss Geisler. "We looked like we were from the same family." When I showed her some photographs my mother had kept, she was stunned. They were of her family - - - her mother, father, and sister.

"As it turned out, she was my first cousin. She knew as little about her family in America as I did about mine in Czechoslovakia. We ended up hugging and crying together." Through an interpreter, Miss Geisler's cousin told her of other relatives, including an aunt who lived two hours away in Gottwaldor.

"Visiting my aunt was very exciting," Miss Geisler said. "Here I was knocking on a door in a faraway place to see a relative I hadn't even known existed. It did not take her but about fifteen minutes to say "yes" when I invited her to come to visit us in America.

She told me of a picture of "The Last Supper" she had done in needlepoint. The canvas was 30 ft. wide and 30 ft. long. The needlepoint now belongs to a Mr. and Mrs. Herman Zboriana. He had bought this for a wedding present for his wife, forty years ago. This lovely art work is registered in the Museum of Arts in Cezechoslovakia. Miss Geisler had visited the couple in 1978 and had a color photograph of this masterpiece to show us.

Aunt Hermina, and her husband, Antonin Zbordi came to America and Aunt Hermina stayed a year and her husband nine months. After her aunt's visit here Miss Geisler accompanied by her niece, returned to her mother's homeland. She studied the language and was able to communicate with some of her cousins and other long lost relatives. She spent three weeks there recently and had just returned to this country when she came to Concord to visit her brother last week.

Mim and Doc are the last of fifteen children. They have two brothers living in New York, but "Sis" is the only girl. What a pleasant visit this was. I did not want to leave. Wish you could have been with me at this reunion. Guess what Doc and them had for breakfast? "They had griyuts and butter with sawt on'em, but ah purely love it with red-eye gravy!!!"

You'll Find It At The
Christmas Bazaar
Friday 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Presbyterian Church

RESERVE JUNIOR HEIFER CALF CHAMPION at the 1978 Keystone International Livestock Exposition held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was MMF Marshella Pride 1278, this entry of Becky MacIntosh of Appomattox.
photo by American Angus Association

An Unusual Church Deed

The deed of the land on which Old Concord Presbyterian Church stands is an unusual one. James Shearer leased two acres of land to the trustees of the church in 1812 for five hundred years "in consideration of the sum of one half cent per year," provided that the land always be used for church purposes, otherwise it would revert to his heirs.

Old Concord is one of the oldest churches in the county, located a few miles from Spout Spring and occupying a lovely old brick building built in 1854. Before 1812 it was located about a mile west of the present building, and previous to that near Concord. Tradition says the church goes back to 1735.

The lease to the church property can be found in Campbell County Deed Book 9, on pages 396 and 397, and is dated January 4, 1812. In this indenture James Shearer leased to the trustees, then listed as Robert Hunter, Thomas Dixon, Oliver McReynolds, Charles Blount and Robert Franklin, and to their successors, "one small parcel of land . . including the spring" for 500 years or as long as it is used as a place of worship.

A provision is also made for the unrestrained use of the spring by the heirs of James Shearer in perpetuity. The church apparently moved from its former location on account of the lack of nearby water, which may explain why the use of the spring is so clearly stated in the deed of lease.

The provison to return the land to the Shearer heirs at any time within the five-hundred year time span, if no longer use for church purposes, undoubtedly could cause some legal problems in the future. Tracing the heirs in the year twenty-three hundred and twelve might turn into one of the more interesting legal tangles which history makes note of from time to time. But then - we won't be around to puzzle over it.

Harriett A. Chilton

(Miss Chilton is a member of The Appomattox County Historical Society, the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the UDC in Falls Church, and the E Pluribus Unum Chapter of the DAR in Washington).

APPOMATTOX SENIOR 4-H

On November 20, 1978 the Appomattox Senior 4-H Club met. Mary Dyess, president, called the meeting to order. Michael Phelps led us in the Pledge to the American Flag and Rita Reynolds in the Pledge to the 4-H flag.

The old business covered was Old and New Projects, Achievement Records and the Soils Team, a newly formed organization. New buisness was the Meats Team and the annual Christmas Party.

Then the meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Jane Guill, Reporter

Canaan Baptist

Business Church Meeting - Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Regular preaching service the 2nd Sunday, December 10 at 11:30 a. m. Rev. C. L. Fuller, pastor in charge. The Canaan Echoes will furnish the music. Communion will be served.

The Annual Christmas Program will be the 2nd Sunday, December 10 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Please come and worship with us.

Hurtsville

Doris Spinks (nee Hix) niece of Mrs. Avis Hix, was recently promoted to System Analyst for Small Group Insurance Products. Doris is employed by the Prudential Insurance Company, Newark, N. J.

Mrs. Annie Bibler, sister of Garfield and Jessie Hix of Pamplin, recently returned to her Neptune, N. J. home from a 9 day trip to the Sunny Islands of Puerto and St. Thomas.

Theodore Wright, a 4th grade honor student at Asbury Park Elementary School in Asbury Park, New Jersey was recently presented an achievement award from Omega Pai Phi Fraternity, Inc. for Superior Scholastic Performance. Teddy is the brother of Marvin Watson of Pamplin.

Va. Fibre Reports Weekly Wood Purchases

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased by Virginia Fibre Corporation of Riverville for the week ending November 19, 1978. Purchases are listed by counties.

Albermarle	6,167.89
Amelia	4,374.60
Amherst	4,547.88
Appomattox	10,445.57
Bedford County	2,454.68
Buckingham	13,065.96
Campbell	10,684.67
Charlotte	3,875.60
Cumberland	5,674.45
	9,555.90
Fluvanna	902.66
Franklin County	581.83
Goochland	986.02
Halifax	1,359.96
Nelson	5,504.56
Nottoway	3,577.19
Pittsylvania	654.12
Powhatan	1,413.16
Prince Edward	8,884.08
Prince William	900.36
Rockbridge	426.82
Total	96,038.30

We feel this information is of interest to our readers in Appomattox County and in adjoining counties.

Toy Shopping Suggestions

In shopping for toys, select playthings with some degree of realism, a Virginia State College Extension specialist suggested. Realistic toys such as scaled-down models of real-life objects, help children to become inventive and imaginative in their play.

In shopping for toys, look for those that provide a variety of play experiences, a Virginia State College Extension specialist suggested. An older child might use simple blocks to represent a city, using other toys, such as cars, as props.

Don't buy toys impulsively, a Virginia State College Extension specialist in child development recommended. Try to consider the types of toys that capture the child's interests and don't restrict the purchase to those kinds of toys that the adult remembers enjoying.

Spread the toy budget throughout the year, a Virginia State College Extension specialist in child development recommended. Don't overwhelm children with too many new toys at once. Use birthdays, a rainy day, and other occasions to introduce new toys and new play experiences.

Marine Hudson is Participating In NATO Exercise

NOV. 17 - Marine Lance Corporal Uatha E. Hudson, son of Uatha E. and Mary Hudson of Route 3, Box 358, Appomattox, Va. is participating in the major NATO exercise "Display Determination."

He is assigned to Battalion Landing Team Two Slant Eight (BLT 2/8), based at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"Display Determination" is designed to demonstrate and improve NATO's capability to reinforce and resupply Southern Europe.

His command has joined with forces from Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany for the exercise.

The exercise began with ships from Portugal, the United Kingdom and the U.S. rendezvousing in the Eastern Atlantic. This naval force proceeded through the strait of Gibraltar and joined with additional American and Italian ships in the Western Mediterranean. Other surface ships, submarines, and land based aircraft are acting as "aggressors" and simulating attacks as the NATO ships transit the Mediterranean for an amphibious landing in Southern Greece.

A 1977 graduate of Appomattox County High School, Hudson joined the Marine Corps in June 1977.

Jordan News

On Saturday, Dec., beginning at 1:00 the Young Adult Choir will be sponsoring a plate supper at the Oakville School. Come on out for some good homecoming.

On the first Sunday night, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. Rev. Wyatt Venable will be preaching here for the benefit of the Young Adult Choir.

The annual Christmas program will be held December 23.

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Ceiling Insulation Most Beneficial

BLACKSBURG - When establishing priorities, homeowners should give the edge to ceiling insulation over insulating any other part of the home.

Harold A. Hughes, Virginia Tech Extension specialist in agricultural engineering said ceiling insulation will give the best results for the money spent.

He explained that more insulation is needed in the ceiling than in other parts of a house because room temperatures are higher at this point and the ceiling area is usually half of the home's total exposed area.

"Luckily, it's also one of the easiest areas to insulate," he said.

According to the energy section of the Virginia Building Code, ceilings should have a minimum "R" value or resistance to heat flow of 19. However, several companies and insulation dealers recommend "R" values as high as 38.

Homeowners can install batt or blanket insultation themselves while loose fill is often installed by a contractor, the Tech faculty member said.

After the ceiling is adequately insulated, Hughes recommended insulating the rest of the home in the following priority order: floors over unheated areas, including basements; band joists at the top of foundation walls; exposed foundation walls; and uninsulated exterior frame walls.

More information on buying and installing insulation is available at local Extension offices.

EAT LITE LUNCH BEFORE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

When you're working, you can often use lunch hours to take care of many of the chores you must do around the holidays. But, for energy's sake, don't skip lunch—bring a light one from home and eat it at your desk. It will save you time—and money—and give you a pleasant "breather" during your busy day.

What and how you eat are important, no matter how rushed you are. A light but hot lunch is best if you're going out shopping. Something like Ripton Lite-Lunch is perfect for an eat-in lunch: it's heartier than soup—chock-full of special new Lite-Lunch noodles and other ingredients in a deliciously seasoned sauce, so thick you eat it with a fork. You make it right in a mug just by adding boiling water. Choose any of the 7 Lite-Lunch varieties: since they're packed in protective envelopes, you can slip them in your purse and store them in your desk drawer. Bring along fruit and add a beverage. With such a hot, satisfying light lunch, you're then ready to battle the holiday crowds, even on a lunch hour.

Make Safety a Part of Christmas

BLACKSBURG - The Christmas holidays should be spent in the cheery company of the family and friends . . . not in a hospital.

Here is a list of safety recommendations about holiday decorations. It was compiled by Katherine Habel, Virginia Tech Extension specialist in home furnishings, based on the advice from the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

For a natural, cut tree, the most important safety factor is freshness. The higher the moisture content of the tree, the less likely it is to dry out and become a serious fire hazard. Keep the holder filled with water over the level of the cut.

Set the tree up a good distance from any heat source. Dispose of the tree when the needles begin to fall off in large quantities. This is a sign that it is becoming dangerously dry.

Metal trees present no fire hazard in themselves. However, they can be the source of a serious shock hazard if electric lights are attached. Sharp metal edges may cut the cord insulation or the metal needles might touch an electrically charged component. Either way, the whole tree will become electrically charged and anyone touching the tree or a grounded object at the same time could receive a severe shock.

The only way to illuminate a metal tree safely is to use colored floodlights placed in different areas of the room. Since floodlights can become a bit hot, they should be positioned where children can't come in contact with them.

A plastic tree should be made of fire-resistant material. This does not mean that the tree will not burn, but only that it will not catch fire easily. As with natural trees, keep away from heat sources.

Check the tree lights and outdoor lights each year before use. Look for frayed wires, loose connections, broken or cracked sockets and spots where bare wire is exposed. Any set that is damaged should be thrown out or repaired. Careful handling of these products during unpacking, decorating and repacking will lessen the chance of damage.

All lights should be fastened securely to the tree. No light bulbs should come into direct contact with the needles or branches. Curtains and other flammable materials should be kept away from bulbs.

Don't overload extension cords; don't put more than three sets of lights on any extension cord. Keep the connection joints away from the tree's water supply.

Any outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly identified as designed for outdoor use. Don't use indoor lights for outdoor lighting. Remove outdoor lighting as soon as the season is over. Even these lights are not designed to withstand prolonged exposure to the elements.

When you leave the house or retire for the evening, be sure that all lights are turned off by unplugging them from the wall outlet. Always disconnect any electrical appliance by grasping the plug, not by pulling on the cord.

Though it may provide a sense of nostalgia, never use wax candles on or near a tree. This is a very serious fire hazard. Any decorative candles should always be kept well away from children and any flammable material.

Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ornaments with small detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them and knock them off.

Trimmings used on trees or around the home should be noncombustible or flame-resistant. An often recognized hazard exists in the combined use of spun glass "angel hair" and spray-on artificial snow, which present little fire hazard if used separately. When the snow is sprayed on angel hair, the dried combination can burn rapidly if accidentally ignited.

Some traditional holiday decorations may be harmful if eaten, and this poses a hazard for young children. Mistletoe and holly berries may be poisonous if more than a few are swallowed.

Fire salts, which produce a multi-colored effect when thrown on a wood fire, contain heavy metals. Eating them can cause gastrointestinal problems and vomiting.

If your child consumes any of these possibly hazardous substances, call a physician or Poison Control Center immediately.

Fireplaces are particularly popular during the holidays. Before starting a fire, remove all decorations from the area and be sure the flue is open.

Keep a screen in front of the fireplace any time a fire is burning.

Never use the fireplace as an incinerator. Do not burn wrappings or evergreen boughs there. These can burn suddenly and rapidly, throwing off sparks and burning debris.

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VA Questions & Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - Can a service-disabled veteran receiving compensation get additional payment for a spouse in need of aid and attendance?

A - In lieu of the additional compensation a disabled veteran rated 30 per cent or more is entitled to receive for a spouse, the veteran may elect to receive a special allowance for a spouse who is in need of the aid and attendance of another person.

Q - Can a veteran make more than one change in an educational program approved for GI Bill benefits?

A - Any change of an educational program beyond the first change could necessitate mandatory VA counseling. Consult VA for assistance.

Q - Where may a veteran go to seek a VA guaranteed home loan?

A - The veteran may go to places one normally would go for real estate financing, such as mortagage companies, savings and loan associations and banks. They should be familiar with details of the VA loan program.

Q - Is a prescribed VA form necessary when making a change of beneficiary on government life insurance?

A - Beneficiary designations are best submitted on VA Form 29-336, available at any VA office. However, any written request over the insured's signature, and received by the VA during the insured's lifetime, will accomplish a change of designation.

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